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# The Elba Clipper

Volume 104, Number 43 50 Cents Elba, Alabama Thursday, April 5, 2001 1 Section, 12 Pages Plus 1 Ad Insert

MARILYN R. MARKS RESIGNS AS BOARD CHAIRMAN

## Dorsey Trailers Inc. agrees to sell assets

by Ferrin Cox, Publisher

It was officially announced last Wednesday that Dorsey Trailer management has officially recommended to the U. S. Bankruptcy Court, the acceptance of a \$4 million offer for the Elba plant and the equipment and inventory of the Cartersville, Ga. plant. The offer was made by Dorsey Acquisition Group LLC. The announcement expressly said that, "Dorsey Acquisition Group LLC does not include any current or former officers, directors or insiders of the Company."

There is no announced time for then the bankruptcy court will rule on the recommendation.

The same news release

announced that Marilyn R. Marks, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the company has resigned her position with the company effective March 18, 2001.

In a telephone conversation on Tuesday afternoon of this week, company spokesperson Lorri Palko said from her Atlanta office that the new investors want to reopen the Elba plant and resume building trailers in the facility. She added that they have indicated they also plan to resume the construction of flatbed trailers in Elba.

Palko warned that the announcement doesn't mean it is a done deal by any measure. She explained that any offer is subject to approval of the courts and other bids can still be received and/or accepted by the bankruptcy courts.

She said there has been substantial additional interest expressed in buying the company since the March 22nd action was made public. According to the Palko, "The good news is that there is substantial interest in the company and a high likelihood that the Elba facility will reopen in the near future."

The news release reads as follows:

As previously announced, on Dec. 4, 2000, Dorsey Trailers, Inc. (the "Company") filed a voluntary Petition for Relief under the provisions of Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Alabama, Montgomery, Ala. (Bankruptcy Case No. 00-6792-WRS). On March 22, 2001, the Company filed motions with the Bankruptcy Court whereby certain assets of the Company will be purchased for \$4 million, subject to certain adjustments at closing, by the Dorsey Acquisition Group, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company. Dorsey Acquisition Group LLC does not include any current or former officers, directors or insiders of the Company. The Asset Purchase Agreement entered into by the Company

Please See DORSEY, Page 3



**WATERSHED STUDY STATUS REPORT** Engineers were in Elba last week updating Elba city officials on the status of their flood control study on Beaver Dam and Moore's Creek. The project is being funded by the City of Elba and a matching grant from FEMA.

Early studies predict that, by constructing at least two normally dry restrictor, "holding ponds" in each of the watersheds, the peak water flow in the downstream parts of the respective creeks (in Elba residential areas) can be cut as much as 45%. Combining these restrictors with removal of accumulated debris, silt and other obstructions could result in additional reductions in flood dangers. The study is ongoing.

Pictured above from left to right are: John Curry, engineer with Hydro-Engineering Solutions; Elba Street Superintendent Billy Meek; Mayor James Grimes, City Clerk Donnie Morrow and Charles Peters, engineer with Peters-Mitchell and Associates; the prime contractor on this study. Seated is Wesley Dawsey, engineer with Hydro-Engineering.

## Passover is a time of reflection

by Jennifer Smith, Staff Writer

Over 3,000 years ago the Israelites were slaves under the reign of Pharaoh. Moses was appointed by God to approach Pharaoh and ask for the Israelites release. Each time Pharaoh refused, God sent a plague upon the land. Plagues of water being turned to blood, frogs, vermin, flies, cattle disease, boils, hail, locusts and darkness were all ignored by Pharaoh.

In the final plague, God killed all the first-born of humans, and cattle. The Israelites were told to cover the sides and tops of their doorframes and the angel of Death would "passover" their household. Pharaoh, not believing, ignored the instructions and lost his son that night. Convinced of God's power, he granted the Israelites their freedom. Today, Jews still celebrate their release from bondage in Egypt and remember the trials of their ancestors by the observance of Passover.

Passover begins this year at sunset Saturday, April 7th. There are very strict rules to be followed during Passover. No food containing yeast is to be found in the house or eaten during the week of the holiday. Some go as far as to have their utensils and cookware professionally cleaned. They clean their houses top to bottom and throw out or give away any food with leaven in it. Foods that are prohibited are to be disposed of the morning of the first night of Passover.

The first two days of the eight day festival are celebrated with a special meal known as Seder (say-der). The Seder is a very important part of Passover. Not only is the feast celebrated to remember the trials of the Jews' ancestors, it is also a time for

learning and intrigue for the children. Near the beginning of the meal, a child is asked four questions and replies in Hebrew. The questions and answers tell the meaning of the items on the Seder plate and the rituals of Passover.

Each portion of the meal tells a part of the story that led to the deliverance of the Jews from Egypt. The centerpiece of the

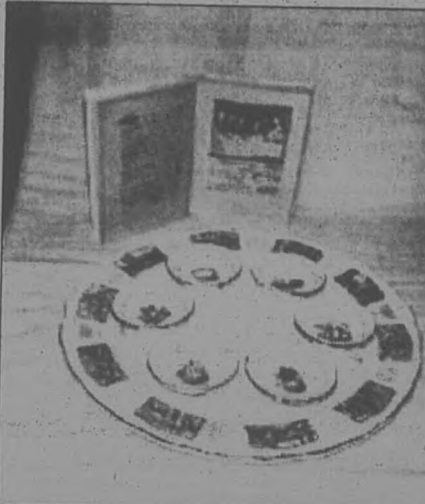
three pieces of Matzah, large unleavened bread are placed in a large cloth. This cloth has three pockets, one for each piece of Matzah. The middle layer is removed and broken in half. This piece is called the Afikomen. The Afikomen is then hidden somewhere in the house. Later in the celebration, the children look for the Afikomen. The one to find it is given a special prize. The bread is unleavened to be a reminder of the haste the Israelites took in leaving Egypt after Pharaoh released them. They did not have time to let the bread rise and had to quickly bake it on hot rocks in the desert while traveling.

Four glasses of wine are also served during the Seder. They represent the four promises made by God to bring to the people of Israel out of Egypt. These are found in Exodus 6.

After the meal, the children search for the Afikomen. It is broken and everyone eats a piece and the last part of the Seder is complete.

For the seven remaining days, the only ritual the Jews follow is the rules of what they are allowed to eat. They are not allowed to consume any foods that contain grains. Many grocery stores carry full lines of foods that are considered Kosher. Kosher means the foods are prepared in a way that none of the forbidden ingredients are used in the foods.

Passover is a time of reflection and remembrance of the Jewish heritage and history. It is a time to remember the trials and persecution suffered for past generations. It is also a time for children to grow in wonder and knowledge of their ancestors and to gain a sense of pride to be passed on to future generations.



**THE SEDER PLATE AND A HAGGADAH** are used during the Seder. Pictured here are a beautiful Seder plate and a reprint of a 500 year old illustrated Hagaddah. A Hagaddah, meaning "telling," is the book from which the ritual of the Seder is conducted.

(photo by Jennifer Smith)

table is the Seder plate. It contains five foods: Haroset, parsley, a roasted egg, a shank bone, and bitter herbs. These serve as reminders of the Israelites' struggle on their journey to freedom. The ritual of the Seder is over 2,100 years old.

The Haroset is a mixture of chopped walnuts, apples, cinnamon and wine. It is the only sweet item on the Seder plate. Its brown color resembles the mortar in the bricks made and used by the Jews to build Pharaoh's monuments and buildings. Though the labor was difficult, freedom is sweet.

Parsley is a symbol that spring has arrived - a new beginning, similar to the new beginning the Jews received with their freedom. The parsley is dipped in salt water to be a reminder of the sweat and tears shed by the slaves before their release.

One roasted egg sits on the platter as a symbol of spring and it also symbolizes the extra sacrifice in the Jerusalem temple in observance of the holiday.

The shank bone depicts the lamb sacrifice offered by the Jews that night of Passover and later in the temple.

The bitter herbs symbolize the bitter affliction of slavery. The freshly shredded horseradish often causes tears to come to one's eyes, another reminder of the persecution and sorrow suffered by the Jews' ancestors so many years ago.

At the beginning of the feast,

## New Brockton Town Council meeting routine

by Marvin McLwain, Editor

The New Brockton Town Council held its monthly meeting Monday evening and dealt mostly with housekeeping matters and tied up loose ends. With all council members present, it took just over a half hour to go through the meeting agenda.

Prior to the start of the business session, Mayor Charles Cole announced the appointment of Ms. Cal D. Howard to the New Brockton Housing Authority Board. She was sworn in by the city clerk, Mrs. Annette Williams.

Mayor Cole also informed the council that the population of the town had increased from 1184 to 1250 as reported by the 2000 census. "I thought there was a few more than that and I still believe there were; however, that is still an increase," said Cole.

The mayor read and signed, with the council's concurrence, a proclamation proclaiming the month of April as Sexual Awareness Month in the Town of New Brockton.

In the proclamation, all citizens of the town are encouraged to actively participate in the scheduled activities and programs sponsored by the House of Ruth, Inc., and to work toward the elimination of personal and institutional violence against women.

Turning to other matters of business, the council, after a short discussion, voted unanimously to draft and enact an ordinance to provide fees for

manufactured homes.

Mayor Cole commented that he felt the town should charge a fee for erecting a manufactured home on a lot that is in line with the fees presently charged for constructing a home on a lot.

Councilman Ron McMonagle made a motion, seconded by Councilman Ricky Strickland, that an ordinance be adopted that would require an equal amount fee for moving a manufactured home or mobile home onto property within the town city limits.

"This would be a building permit because there is a certain amount of building that does go on within the installation of water lines, sewage lines, power lines, blocking up, etc.," said McMonagle. "Also, it gives us [the town] an opportunity to inspect and make sure that it does meet the codes for tie downs and etc."

The ordinance will be drafted with the appropriate fees included and presented at the next meeting of the council for further consideration.

In connection with the above matter it was approved by the council, that police officers would be instructed to report any building activities to town hall so that it could be verified that all requirements (fees paid and permits issued) had been met.

Returning to some unfinished business, the noise ordinance, which has been drafted, read and discussed at previous meetings, was presented for a final vote. It was noted by the mayor that the fine for each violation had been set at \$50. The ordinance to abate noise and nuisance (Number 2001-01) was adopted with Councilman

Stuckey casting the lone dissenting vote.

Councilman McMonagle reported to the council that the work (painting and porch repair) on the New Brockton Senior Citizens Center had been completed. The cost was \$9,400.

He also reported that he was presently checking on repairing the old bathroom in the town park near town hall. The project requires some concrete work that is being checked on by McMonagle. It was noted that the next "main project" is the repair of the old Jr. Food Store.

This will be started as soon as the funds are replenished.

Mayor Cole reported that Frederick Hamilton, who is with the Southeast Alabama Regional Planning and Development Board, along with FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) officials will be coming to New Brockton this week to survey the drainage problems on Youngblood, Byrd Mill Road, Medley Road, and other locations as needed. He asked that council members add to the list any other areas that they feel should be examined in addition to the ones mentioned. This visit in preparation to securing funds (making application for) to correct these problems.

In approving payment of the monthly bills, Mayor Cole noted that the cash flow for the past month was \$12,365.39. Total expenses through March 31st were \$26,903.26 leaving a balance in the "checkbook" of \$10,506.11.

In the absence of the police chief, Jerry Gilbert, the mayor

Please See NBTC, Page 3

## Area Happenings

**COUNTY BOE MEETING.** The Coffee County Board of Education will hold its monthly meeting, Thursday (TONIGHT), April 5, in the board room of the Central Office located in Elba. The meeting starts at 6:30 p.m.

**MISS ZION CHAPEL PAGEANT.** Saturday, April 7, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the ZC High School Auditorium

**VIETNAM VETS MEET.** The Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc., Chapter 373 will hold its regular monthly meeting on Thursday (TONIGHT), April 5, at the Clayhatchee Community House. The meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. sharp. For more information call 347-1426 or 598-8804.

**COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING.** The Coffee County Commission will hold its bi-monthly meeting Monday, April 9, at 9 a.m. in the Community Room located in the County Complex in New Brockton, Ala.

**EHS BAND DAY.** Elba High School Band Day will be Saturday, April 14, from 9:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. on the courthouse square.

## \*NOTICE\*

The Elba Parks and Recreation Department will hold its 1st Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 7. There will be two separate hunts: Youth age 12 and Under will hunt for eggs at 9 a.m. and the young-at-heart age 60 and Over will hunt for eggs at 2 p.m. This event will take place at Hawkins-Williams Park, located on Champ McCollough Drive. The hunt will be \$1 per person and is sponsored by the Elba Parks and Recreation, State Farm, Crazy Bills and The National Security Group, Inc. All proceeds raised will be used for the summer programs of the Elba Parks and Recreation Department.

## Governor approves grant funding a new police car for the Town of Kinston

Alabama Governor Don Siegelman announced last week that the Kinston Police Department will soon be getting a new police car. Siegelman has notified Kinston Mayor William Mullins that he approved the town's request for the \$26,222 grant to purchase the new police car.

"Law enforcement officials need safe and up-to-date equipment in order to adequately serve and protect their communities," Siegelman said. "I am pleased to assist the town of Kinston with the purchase of this new patrol car."

The new police car will include a light bar, strobe system, switch panel siren, speaker, decals, security screen, radio organizer, radar and video system.

Siegelman awarded the grant from funds made available to the governor's office through the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant program of the U. S. Department of Justice. He has designated the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs to administer the grant.















## SPORTS

Views from....

## THE PRESSBOX

By Ricky Mularz, Sports Editor

When we moved out into the country it seemed like the cat population in the area grew almost instantly. Our neighbors had a couple of cats that had kittens, and now that the kittens have grown up, they too are about to become Moms, which means that before long the cats will far outnumber the people. When the latest hatch is born I am sure there will be cats of all shapes, sizes and colors on our dirt road, and if anyone wants a kitten, just let me know. They will be there for the taking!

## LET'S TALK SPORTS....

\*\*\* If the rainy weather that dumped over 16 inches of rain on Elba during the month of March will take a hike, the Elba High Tigers and Lady Tigers will get the chance to hit the field for some serious baseball and softball action.

The Tigers, which had four games rained out last month, are scheduled to play three games a week for the next three weeks as they begin their run to the playoffs, and four of the nine games will be key area games that will determine which two teams in the area will advance. Elba has the players and the skills to make the playoffs, but must get back to the fundamentals on defense and stop making errors if they are to have a chance at post-season play. The Tigers made 12 errors in a recent loss to Samson, and while the Tigers are pretty good, they aren't anywhere near good enough to overcome that many mistakes. If Elba's pitchers will keep throwing strikes and the defense will step forward and make some plays, the Tigers should still be a threat come playoff time.

The Lady Tigers also had four games rained out last month, but will get the chance to play all the games they want this month as they have 24 games and 3 tournaments on the schedule for April. The Lady Tigers will get the chance to play the season with a double-header sweep over Pleasant Home, and appeared to be much better than anyone expected. Well, the Lady Tigers have now not played a game in over two weeks, and must literally start all over again when they take the field this week. The key to the Lady Tigers this season should be how well they can hit the ball, and how they handle playing so many games in such a short span of time. The guess here is that the girls will more than their share of wins and give their fans plenty to cheer about.

\*\*\* If you see more than the usual number of school buses in Elba during the month of April don't be surprised, the Zion Chapel Rebels and Lady Rebels are playing their baseball and softball games at Legion Field and Hawkins-Williams Park, and that means the roads will be crowded with buses, and the Rebels will play four games this month at Legion Field, while the Lady Rebels are scheduled to play six games at Hawkins-Williams. Zion Chapel High School has fields under construction on its campus and next season plans to play at the school, but until then, will call Elba home at least as far as athletics is concerned.

\*\*\* The final numbers are in for the number of teams in the youth baseball and softball leagues in Elba, and it looks like another banner year for the Elba Recreation Department and all of its players and coaches. In baseball there will be a total of 32 teams in six leagues, while over in softball there will be 20 teams playing ball. That's a total of 52 regular season teams with over 650 players and 130 coaches taking part. Looks like a bust few months ahead for the kids and their parents!

\*\*\* The Alabama High School Athletic Association released the student populations of its member schools last week, along with the change in regions for the 2002-2004 school years, and while a number of schools did change classes, and regions, there were really very few surprises in the numbers. The numbers, which includes students in grades 10-12, and ninth-grade hold-overs, showed that Elba had 2162 students and ranked 61st out of the 68 schools in Class 3A, an increase in student population from two years ago. The largest school in 3A is Oak Grove, with 2917 students, while T.R. Miller dropped from 4A to the 21st largest 3A school in the state with 2659 students. Another change worth noting was Shades, which moved up from 2A and is ranked 48th in 3A with 226.88 students. Zion Chapel ranked 44th in Class 1A with 106.45 students, followed by Kinston in 46th with 103.68 students. Brantley moved up slightly and is now the 30th largest school in 1A with 114.35 students. An interesting note in the 1A ranks comes near the bottom of the list, where McKenzie, a small school that always struggles to field athletic teams, was ranked 69th, but was ahead of 1A powerhouse Courtland, which was 71st, with two fewer students. New Brockton ranked 60th out of 69 2A teams with an enrollment of 150.43, but it was still ahead of Georgiana, which was at 62nd, and Wickburg, which was last at 148.3. A newcomer to the 2A ranks was Luverne, which fell from 3A and ranked only 28th as a 2A school, while another newcomer was Washington County, which dominated in football and basketball this year as a 3A school, and will now be the 5th largest 2A member. Barbour County made the jump up to 3A and will be the 6th largest school in the class with 284.63 students, which means that in the 2001-2002 school year the jaguars will certainly be the largest 2A school in the history of the state. The figures in Class 4A revealed that Geneva slipped to 59th of the 64 schools in the classification with an enrollment of 302.48, while Opp was nearby with 305.95 students. Andalusia was ranked 12th in the class with 375.05 students, and newcomer Hillcrest, of Evergreen, slipped down from 5A and came in at 24th with 353.13 students. The student population in Class 5A ranges from a high of 778.3 at Robertsdale to only 427.95 at Briarwood Christian, a difference of over 350 students in only three grades! With an average difference of over 115 students per grade, the level of play of 5A may vary greatly. In Class 6A, it was revealed that Robert E. Lee was the state's largest school with 1,614.15 students, while Enterprise ranked 8th with 1,179.07. The folks over in Enterprise have been crying for years that they simply didn't have the athletes to compete any more in 6A. Well, Enterprise may not have the athletes, but they sure do have the students to choose from! Another note worth mentioning in 6A was Smiths Station coming in at #18 out of the 50 schools in the class. The Smiths Station school has grown by leaps and bounds in recent years, and while the community may not even have a red light, its school has 1,028 students in its top three grades. There are a lot of people living in the woods up near Smiths Station.

\*\*\* In closing, the youth baseball and softball seasons will begin in just over a week here in Elba, and I urge everyone to come out and watch the kids play ball.

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Tigers see record slip to 2-4

## Elba errors prove fatal in 10-3 loss

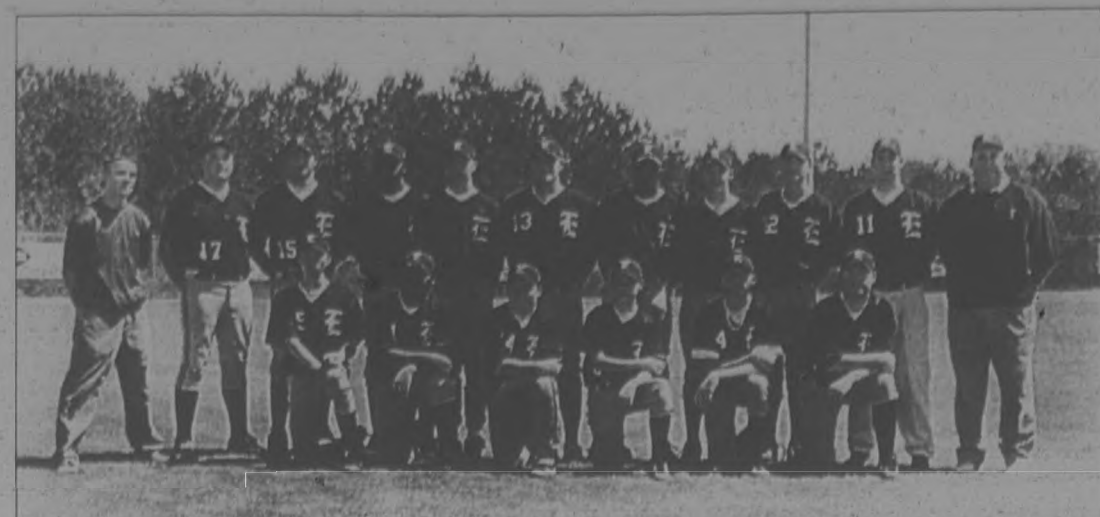
The Elba Tiger's saw their record slip to 2-4 last week with a disappointing 10-3 loss to the Samson Tigers, in Samson.

The Tigers jumped out to a quick 1-0 lead in the top of the first inning when Brandon Petty led off with a single, and raced home one batter later on an RBI double by Brandon Salter.

Elba threatened to add to its lead in the second as Derrick Thomas and Clay Sutley both collected hits. However, a fielder's choice and an inning-ending double play wiped out the scoring opportunity, and Elba's lead remained at 1-0.

Samson managed only two hits in its half of the second against Elba starter Brandon Salter, but the hometown Tigers took advantage of six Elba errors to plate four unearned runs and grabbed a 4-1 lead after two innings of play.

Elba bounced right back with two runs in the top of the third to cut the Samson lead to 4-3. A



2001 Elba High Tigers

one-out double by Jason Curran ignited the Elba rally, while Marcus Henderson came through with an RBI single to drive in Curran, and Henderson later scored on a two-out RBI single by Ralston Moore. Samson added single runs in both the third and fourth innings to up its lead to 6-3, then plated four runs in the bottom of the sixth to blow the game open and claim the big 10-3 win.

Derrick Thomas got 2 hits to lead Elba at the plate, while Brandon Salter, Marcus Henderson and Ralston Moore all had RBIs. Salter took the loss

(Bill Miller Photo)

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Derrick Thomas got 2 hits to lead Elba at the plate, while Brandon Salter, Marcus Henderson and Ralston Moore all had RBIs. Salter took the loss

## April will be a busy month for Elba Tigers and Lady Tigers

The high school baseball and softball season has been underway for several weeks, but the teams now have spring break behind them and will begin to hit the field almost daily as the seasons hit full stride.

The Elba Tigers struggled to a 2-4 slate prior to spring break, with a line-up that included only two seniors, as Coach Wayne Grimes has to be hoping that his Tigers will bounce back strong in the coming weeks as they play three games a week for the remainder of the season. Senior Brandon Salter has been solid on the mound and at the plate, while Marcus Henderson and Jason Curran have both been swinging hot bats. The Tigers' downfall in early games has been on defense, where they have struggled in almost every game, and closed out the pre-break schedule with a 12 error performance in a loss to Samson.

"We have had a lot of games and practices rained out," stated Coach Grimes, "and with a team as young as ours we really need the extra work we get in practice. It seems like when we get to practice we play okay, and when it rains us out at practice we fall apart the next time we take the field." We have now been practicing and playing for over seven weeks, and it is time to become a team and play to win. We have nine games left on

the schedule, including four area games, and the time has come to play well or sit at home when the playoffs get started in late April.

The Elba Lady Tigers managed to get in only two games prior to spring break due to the rainy weather, but will definitely make up for lost time in the coming weeks as they have 24 games and three tournaments on the schedule for the month of April.

The Lady Tigers will challenge such powers as Andalusia, Opp, Samson, Luverne, and New Brockton over the next four weeks, as well as newcomers Geneva County and cross-county rival Kinston. Tournaments will be played in Pleasant Home, Samson and Elba.

"We are scheduled to play games on 15 days in April," said Coach Amelia Rhoades, "and the girls all know what it will take to be successful with that many games in such a short amount of time. They are ready to play after all the rain, and we just hope we can play well and get into a routine."

The Lady Tigers are led by the senior duo of Melissa Mularz and Roshanda McKinnon, while junior Rachel Bludworth and sophomore Devin Kierstead have both been swinging hot bats in early-season action.

Umpires needed for youth baseball and softball leagues in Elba

The Elba Department of Parks and Recreation will hold a meeting on Sunday, April 8, at 7 p.m., for anyone age 16 and over that is interested in umpiring youth baseball and softball this spring and summer in Elba and New Brockton. The session will be held at the Elba Recreation Center.

Softball tournament set for Clayhatchee

The Town of Clayhatchee will be sponsoring a men's Class C and below softball tournament on April 14 at the Clayhatchee ballpark. Cost to enter will be \$110 per team, and each team must hit its own softballs. A 5 home-run rule will be used, and the deadline to enter will be April 12 and 6 p.m. Trophies will go to the top three teams, and to enter a team must call 598-4321 or 598-4322.



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## SPORTS

Let's Go...

## Outdoors with Ben

By Ben Norman, Sports Columnist



Tips on buying an outboard motor

Spring has sprung as the old

clique goes, and with it outdoor people's thoughts turn to turkey hunting, camping, fishing and boating. Many will be buying their first boat and motor, and some will be replacing that old worn out kicker with something a little more reliable for cruising the waterways.

If you're in the market for an outboard motor, whether it's a pair of counter-rotating dual engines for an offshore fishing boat or a small outboard to get to your favorite beam or crappie hole, the cheapest motor isn't necessarily the best buy.

David Grigsby, Product

Manager for Yamaha Outboards (1-800 YAMAHA) says it's the value you receive from your dollars that should be important.

Outboards provide the most horsepower and performance per dollar, and they are the easiest and most economical to maintain," said Grigsby. He suggests the following points to consider when shopping for a new outboard.

Low emission outboards: Two-stroke or four-stroke outboards are available. Which one to buy will depend on how you use your boat. Marine dealers can help you decide. Choose one that is fuel-efficient and

clean burning.

Oil injection: An outboard with oil injection eliminates the need to mix oil and gas. Look for an oil injection system that injects oil directly into the manifold for better performance. This option is usually found on motors from 25hp up.

Fuel/oil ratio: Conventional 2-stroke outboards mix oil and gas for lubrication. Some manufacturers still manufacture motors using a 50:1 or twice as much oil as the 100:1 ratio pioneered by Yamaha. The 100:1 ratio gives a smoother running engine with a less noticeable "blue smoke" trail.

Propshaft-tuned horsepower: Some companies in the past rated horsepower at the powerhead. It's the horsepower measured at the propshaft that counts. The difference can be up to 10% usable power. Ask the marine dealer where the horsepower is measured, at the powerhead or the propshaft.

Engine Protection: Make certain your investment is protected. Quality manufacturers build

in sensors to help prevent damage from over-revving, overheating and low engine oil. The systems vary, but typically will use horns, buzzers, light, and even decrease the rpm of the engine gradually to protect it from further damage.

Corrosion protection: When an outboard is not being used they can be left out in the hot sun, stored in freezing garages over the winter, exposed to salt water and generally ignored when not in use. Ask your dealer to explain how sacrificial zinc anodes protect your engine parts.

These replaceable inexpensive anodes are placed in key areas of the outboard engine that are designed to attract corrosive elements first, protecting the more expensive engine parts.

Grigsby cautions buyers to check the outboard's overall appearance. Look for quality. If it's there, you can see the difference. Also be careful when comparing standard equipment on one brand versus options on another. Do the math to see which one offers the most value.

## SPOTLIGHT ON OUTDOORS



CARL PRICE...killed this turkey while hunting near the Wise Mill Community with his son, John. The gobbler sported an 11 inch beard and 1 1/2 inch spurs, and weighed in at 23 pounds.

## Tim Hudson wins Roadrunner feature

## Ronnie Sanders wins rain-delayed Rattler 150 at SAS

By Mark Chisum

The 25th running of the Rattler 150 at South Alabama Speedway is finally in the books. The weekend started three weeks ago but was postponed due to rain. For Ronnie Sanders, it was an especially long weekend. His weekend involved an unnecessary engine change and an overheating racecar. But in the end, Sanders was smiling in Victory lane.

During Saturday's practice, and even into qualifying, Sanders wasn't pleased with his car's performance. They decided to change the engine after qualifying Saturday, but that didn't solve the problem. After a couple of phone calls, the problem was found to be the rear end gears. A quick gear change, that problem solved. His other problem came late in the race.

Dan Beddingfield turned the fastest time in qualifying, but inversion put DuWayne Middlebrooks on the pole. However, Middlebrooks' car stalled during the pace laps, moving Beddingfield back to the pole.

On the green flag, Beddingfield jumped to an early lead, followed by William Wambles, John Wilkinson III, Bubba Naumann, and Wayne Willard. It didn't take long for Wilkinson to make his presence known, as he took the lead on lap 9. Wilkinson stretched his lead as the others jockeyed behind him. Willard was the early mover, advancing quickly from his eighth place starting spot. By lap 27, Willard had moved to second. Sanders had moved from fifth to third, while Beddingfield was headed in the other direction.

Wilkinson looked set to dominate the event, however, on lap 45, he was caught up in a wreck involving a lapped car. Wilkinson was done for the day, and Willard took over the lead. A third of the way through the event, Willard led Sanders, Naumann, Beddingfield, and Ken McFarland. The field went green for a good stretch between laps 59-80. A rash of yellows kept the pace slowed between laps 81-114. During the stretch, Middlebrooks pitted, handing the lead to Sanders. The race remained green for the remaining 35 laps once the green was dropped on lap 115. Sanders built a seemingly comfortable lead, followed by Middlebrooks and Willard. Willard got by Middlebrooks on lap 131 for second and set out for Sanders.

As the race headed toward conclusion, Sanders Monte Carlo began to overheat, water spewing from the overflow vent. Sanders had to slow his pace a bit, while Willard picked his up. With two to go, Willard was on Sanders' bumper. But Sanders used a lapped car to help hold off a charging Willard to take home his third Rattler trophy. Middlebrooks was third at the end, followed by McFarland and Wambles.

Sixth through tenth went to Beddingfield, Scooter Grice, Naumann, Frank King, and Dale Little. In local action, 200 Super

Stock Champion Jody Henderson found water in his oil after he arrived at the track Sunday morning. He and his crew rushed back to the shop, changed engines, then returned in time to fall in at the rear of the 15-car field. Okie Mason led the first lap before giving way to Jesse Reid. Reid led laps 2-21,

but Henderson was putting on a show, moving into second place by lap 11. Henderson moved inside of Reid on lap 22 and went on to win.

Doug Rogers took the lead on lap 16 when Curtis Galbreath experienced mechanical problems and went on to win the Modified Feature. Damon

Hammond was second. In the Roadrunner Feature, Tim Hudson took the win over Jerry Martin. Mike Boykin was third.

For more information, contact the track at (334) 565-3539 or visit the track's web site at www.southalabamasppeedway.com/.

## Stay Connected to Your Co-op

Don't miss the CEC Annual Membership Meeting on April 5



CEC employee Susie Adams shows the grand prize, a 1990 Dodge Grand Caravan, to be given away to one lucky CEC member at the 2001 CEC Annual Membership Meeting on April 5. Other major prizes include a 25-inch TV, microwave oven, VCR, electric grill and \$150 cash.

## You Could Win!

In addition to six major prizes, about 30 other gifts will be awarded. Registered Covington Electric Cooperative members will receive a free automatic umbrella and other useful gifts. Prizes will be awarded immediately following the business session. Members must be present to win any of the six major prizes. For complete rules and regulations, please see the March issue of Alabama Living magazine.

## Thursday, April 5

COVINGTON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE  
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Andalusia Kiwanis Community Center

Registration — 3 p.m.

Entertainment — 5:30 p.m.

Business Session — 7 p.m.



## Family Entertainment

Southern gospel group, The Fox Brothers, will entertain the crowd during this year's CEC Annual Membership Meeting at the Kiwanis Community Center in Andalusia. The Fox Brothers received the "Entertainer of the Year" award by the Christian Country Gospel Music Association in 1999 and "Vocal Group of the Year" by the Country Gospel Music Guild in 1998 and 1999.

Call 222-4121 or 1-800-239-4121 for more information about the 2001 CEC Annual Membership Meeting.

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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Elba Rotary plans dinner/auction

It's time again for the Rotary Club dinner/auction, an annual fundraiser held every April to raise funds for the club's many projects. Members of the Elba Rotary Club are asked to bring guests for dinner (\$6 each) and an evening of excitement. Each Rotarian brings two items to be auctioned off during the evening. Last year, an item of interest was a stained glass stepping stone made by Pres. Jim Gilmer's sister-in-law, Carolyn Johnson,

from Indiana. This year she is contributing two items for the auction: another stained glass stepping stone and an original watercolor, framed painting which she painted from a photo taken somewhere in the Elba area by her Aunt Barbara McDowell about 15 years ago. Anyone interested in owning this original work of art should ask a Rotarian to invite them to the dinner/auction or ask the Rotarian to bid on the painting.



About the artist: Carolyn Wilson Johnson (EHS '69 and a graduate of University of Alabama and Ball State University) lives in Carmel, Ind., with her husband Dave and three college-age children. One of her early paintings is the Elba Courthouse which hangs in the east hallway of the courthouse. She's past president of the Indiana watercolor society and Hamilton (Co.) Artists Club. Her works have been accepted in numerous juried shows, for which she has received many awards and purchase awards.



ATTENTION...People in the Elba area...A flock of pink flamingos have been seen flying around looking for a place to roost. Jim and Ann Nichols found them doing just that on their lawn Monday afternoon as they returned home from Jim's eye surgery. If the flamingos appear in your yard, call The Peoples Bank and ask for Henrietta Grimes or Stacey Parker, and they will make sure that your friend finds the pink birds in their yard for a donation of \$25 or more. The donation will benefit Relay for Life fight against Cancer.

## Elba High School Band Day planned

Bring a lawn chair and enjoy a day of music on the courthouse square Saturday, April 14, from 9 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. Elba Elementary and Elba High School bands will entertain throughout the day with a performance by the Ft. Rucker band at 12 Noon. An auction will be held at 10:30 a.m. with items donated by local merchants. A new addition to the annual Band Day is the giant yard sale. Anyone may make donations of clothing, toys, appliances, etc. The items should be dropped off at The Jewel Box or call to have them picked up (Laura Baxley at 897-6451 or Anita Grimes at 897-2775). All proceeds will help provide instruments, percussion equipment, travel expenses and music for the Elba High School band.

## Barnes and Johnson join staff of Peoples Bank of Coffee County

Doris Matthews, president and CEO of The Peoples Bank of Coffee County, announces that James Barnes and Ashley

Johnson have joined the staff of The Peoples Bank. Barnes will serve as executive vice-president and senior lending officer while Johnson will oversee brokerage and investment operations through PRIMEVEST Financial Services. The Peoples Bank, which has locations in Elba and New Brockton, is part of the Henderson Bancshares holding company.

A native of Coffee County and resident of Enterprise, Barnes has over 30 years of banking experience. He currently serves on the Enterprise Industrial Development Board, the Coffee County Salvation Army and YMCA Boards, as well as treasurer of the Coffee County Family Services Board. Barnes is also a member of the Enterprise Lions Club. He is a member of First Baptist Church of Enterprise, where he serves as a deacon. His wife, Stacia, is a teacher in the Enterprise City School System. Barnes has two children, Paul and Brandi, and two grandchildren.



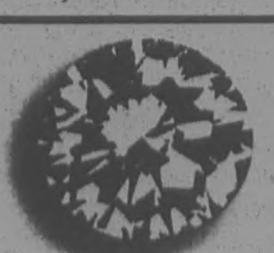
James Barnes



Ashley Johnson

Johnson attends Basin Baptist Church where he teaches a Sunday School class. He and his wife, Leigh, are the parents of a six-month-old daughter. "We are pleased to welcome both James and Ashley to The Peoples Bank. James brings extensive experience and a proven history of success with him, while Ashley comes to us with experience, enthusiasm and an eagerness to help the people of Coffee County with their investment and financial planning needs," said Matthews. "I feel very fortunate to have two employees of their caliber on our staff."

(PRIMEVEST Financial Services, Inc. is an independent, registered broker/dealer. Member SIPC. Securities and Insurance Products provided by PRIMEVEST are not FDIC insured, may lose value and have no financial institution's guarantee.)



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INSIDE  
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Birthday

# The Elba Clipper

Volume 104, Number 44

50 Cents

Elba, Alabama

Thursday, April 12, 2001

1 Section, 14 Pages

## Elba Fire Department upgrading service

by Linda Hodge, Staff Writer

The Elba Fire Department made a few improvements Monday night during its regular monthly drill in which Fire Chief Larry Goodson hopes will better equip the department in protecting local citizens.

The first order of business was the addition of two new firemen to the department.

The members of the department voted and approved the addition of Gappa Wise and Greg Sowell Jr. as the newest Elba firefighters.

"Our goal is to put good, responsible people on the fire department," said Goodson.

"We were in need of people who can respond to daytime fires, and these guys work within the city and are willing to respond to the day fires."

Wise is a local contractor in Elba. He and his wife, Mona, have a 14-month old son, Hudson.

"I am glad to be on the fire department and help in any way I can," he said.

"Our goal is to put good, responsible people on the fire department,"

Chief Goodson

Sowell is the owner of Coleman and Sowell Vault Company and is married to Mary Sowell.

"I hope I'm able to touch someone's life in a positive way while on the force," added Sowell.

Besides the addition of two firefighters, the department also made some equipment changes Monday night.

When entering smoke-filled or hazardous environments, firefighters use a self-contained breathing apparatus. The air bottles on the apparatus have a 15-year shelf-life from the date of manufacture.

The Elba Fire Department had 24 out-of-date bottles that were replaced with new air bottles Monday night.

"These 24 bottles will greatly enhance our life-saving abilities when fighting a fire," said Lt. Wesley DeVane, secretary-treasurer of the department. "The bottles provide firemen 15 minutes of clean air in a smoke-filled or hazardous environment."

DeVane said the 24 air bottles were purchased by the fire department for \$7,326, but the time saved by having the bottles is worth much more than that.

"Without the addition of the new bottles, the department would only have enough bottles to allow firemen one trip into the hazardous environment," he said. "If we couldn't get the job done on that one bottle, we would simply be out of luck."

He said once the 15 minutes of air in the bottle is used, the bottle has to be returned to the fire station to be refilled. The extra air bottles allow firemen to simply switch bottles on the scene of the incident and return to fighting the fire or helping citizens who may be trapped.

"These new bottles for the self-contained breathing apparatus are a positive step in assisting us as we try and provide our citizens with the best possible protection against fire or other hazardous conditions," said DeVane.



DEPARTMENTS ADDS TWO NEW MEMBERS Gappa Wise (l) and Greg Sowell Jr. (r) became Elba's newest firefighters Monday evening when members of the fire department voted for and approved their joining the department.



NEW AIR TANKS PLACED IN SERVICE...Members of the Elba Fire Department are shown above removing outdated air bottles from the department's equipment and replacing them with the new bottles recently purchased by the department. Captured changing the air bottles are (from left): Timmy Richards, J.C. Smith and P.J. Young.

## City Council hears of two police officers leaving department

by Ferrin Cox, Publisher

On Monday night the Elba City Council heard Police Chief R. W. Whitworth report the retirement of one police officer and the resignation of another.

L. C. Cook after many years of service to Elba, has announced his pending retirement, which is effective June 1st.

Officer Johnny Senn has resigned from the Elba department, effective April 19th, to accept a position with the Alabama Highway Patrol.

Whitworth also reported that former officer John Bryan, who retired for health reasons, passed away last week.

Whitworth also presented the council with an option to participate in a law enforcement grant from SE Ala. Medical Center

Traffic Control. Officers who work overtime on traffic law enforcement will be paid by the grant.

Officers who participate will be paid time and a half time, but must show their efforts have helped reduce wrecks and alcohol-related incidents and have increased the usage of seatbelts.

Mayor James Grimes informed council members that he is working on a new pay scale for all city employees. It should be ready for consideration at the end of the fiscal year and hopefully will be fairer and more beneficial to all employees.

The council approved the bid of Rudolph Price of \$250 a month to operate the concessions at the city parks during the months of April, May, June and

July.

The council also voted to apply for FEMA grants for homeowners who want to construct an approved home storm shelter. The grants will be 75%-25% matching grants with FEMA paying the 75% and the homeowner paying the balance.

Mayor Grimes said Coffee County is not a priority county and it may not get accepted into the program, as there is a limited amount of money in the program.

Monthly bills totaling \$10,913.02 were approved for payment.

The council approved a low bid of \$168,402 from a Mississippi firm for additional slip lining in sewer lines and a new wet well on Highland Drive. The project is funded

which the board adopted. Basically, should a student make a threat, he or she will be suspended for five days and the appropriate law enforcement agency will be contacted along with juvenile authorities to investigate the matter. The student may also be required to appear in a hearing before the board after which it will be determined by the board and the superintendent whether or not further action is required. This

## County BOE strengthens violence policy

by Marvin McLwain, Editor

The highlight of last Thursday's regular monthly meeting of the Coffee County Board of Education was the swearing in of new board member Gene Barksdale.

Barksdale was picked by the board to serve the remainder of the term—almost three years—of his late wife, Joyce Barksdale, who passed away in February.

Coffee County Probate Judge William O. Gammill administered the oath-of-office to Mr. Barksdale.

Probably the most important issue of the evening addressed by the board dealt with school violence. A policy was adopted and added to the students' Code of Conduct which strengthened present disciplinary measures and called for added measures—

one being the involvement of juvenile officers and law enforcement in certain situations.

A letter, prompted by the recent shootings that have occurred in schools across the country, was sent out to the parents of students in the county system regarding school violence.

"We have also had some incidences in our schools where we've had to discipline students for making threats regarding bringing guns to school or shooting other students or threatening to shoot students," said Supt. Rodger Bowden. "I felt that it was imperative that we strengthen our disciplinary measures when threats are made on our campuses."

After meeting with District Judge Steve Blair and District Attorney Mark Fuller, Bowden drafted the new guidelines

which the board adopted.

Basically, should a student make a threat, he or she will be suspended for five days and the appropriate law enforcement agency will be contacted along with juvenile authorities to investigate the matter. The student may also be required to appear in a hearing before the board after which it will be determined by the board and the superintendent whether or not further action is required. This

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## Celebrate EASTER at the DOLLAR BEE Plus

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Pictured above, Gene Barksdale (right) is congratulated by Probate Judge William O. Gammill following his swearing-in ceremony.

## Area Happenings

**EHS BAND DAY** Elba High School Band Day will be Saturday, April 14, from 9:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. on the courthouse square. Activities will include entertainment by the elementary and high school bands throughout the day, a large yard sale, jail for Ball and an auction. Barbecue plate tickets will be sold by band members or may be purchased at Whitman Drugs.

**COMMUNITY-WIDE EASTER SUNRISE SERVICES** will be held at Westside Baptist Church, this Sunday, April 15, at 6 a.m. Breakfast will be served following services. Everybody is welcome.

**COUNTY SCHOOLS' KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION** Kindergarten registration for the Coffee County School System will be held the week of April 30-May 4 from 8 a.m. until 3:15 p.m. Primary schedule for registration is as follows:  
• Zion Chapel Elementary School - Tuesday, May 1 • Kinston Elementary School - Wednesday, May 2 • New Brockton Elementary School - Thursday, May 3

The following information will be required at registration: • Birth Certificate • Social Security Card • Immunization Certificate • Chicken pox vaccination is required for entrance into kindergarten. For questions, contact the Coffee County Health Department. • Proof of Residence Children entering kindergarten must be 5-years-old on or before Sept. 2.

For additional information or questions, contact the principal of the respective schools: Zion Chapel Elementary - Bob Annas, 897-6802; Kinston Elementary - Patty Taylor, 565-3027; or New Brockton Elementary - Dr. Irma Townsend, 894-6152.

## Commission zips through light agenda

by Marvin McLwain, Editor

The Coffee County Commission zipped through a short meeting agenda Monday and was signing bills shortly after 9:30 a.m.

In general business from the commissioners, Commissioner Bernest Brooks made a motion to bring back on the table a

motion to pay Johns Chapel AME Church \$400 to help defray expenses incurred when the church's facilities were used as a voting site in the June 11, 2000 election.

The matter was tabled in the June 12, 2000 meeting. Brooks' motion passed by a 6-1 vote with Commissioner Tom Grimsley abstaining from voting on the matter.

County Engineer Randy Tindell presented a preliminary plat for the Hampton Place - Phase I subdivision and recommended that it be approved. The new subdivision is being located just off Co. Rd. 704 (also known as Headless Horseman Road) which is northeast of Enterprise. Commissioners approved the plat.

On a sad note, Tindell noted the death of William Royce Miley on March 30 of which all the commissioners were already aware of.

"We lost a very valuable employee," said Tindell. "Royce was a very young man (age 36) and he was foreman in the highway department responsible for placing all of our liquid asphalt, stone and resurfacing. In fact, he had built several roads within the past couple of years on his own, and he will be hard to replace."

Tindell showed commissioners a map which depicted the roads that Miley had resurfaced or paved, and they heavily dotted the county map in almost all sections of the county.

"He had a tremendous impact on the traveling conditions of Coffee County and he will be sorely missed," said Tindell. "And, he's going to be very hard

to replace."

Later in the meeting, Commissioner Stephens made a motion that now, and in the future, the commission send a formal and appropriate letter of condolence to the family of any county employee who dies. The motion passed unanimously.

John Tallas, director of Coffee County's Emergency Management Agency, made commissioners aware of the availability of a 75-25 matching funds grant from FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) for safe rooms and community shelter throughout the "State of Alabama."

There is a strict limit of \$3,500 on the actual sale room, and they have to meet certain construction specifications which are spelled out in FEMA publications," said Tallas.

Based on the criteria that has to be met in order to be eligible to receive these grant funds, Coffee County falls in the third priority group in competing for the monies. Tallas asked commissioners to direct any individuals wishing to file grant applications with FEMA to contact his office. The deadline for doing so is April 16, 2001.

In other matters, "Jail Administrator Zack Ennis reported that although the jail has several maintenance problems they were being addressed by county maintenance personnel," Commissioner Jim Thompson encouraged Ennis to inform commissioners and seek their help on any problems he might have with jail maintenance.

Appointed the following individuals to serve on the county's strategy planning committee. They are: Sandy Coffey, Stan Windham, Ken Farris, Luverell Wallace, Susan Steck, Tim Sanders, Linda Bryan, Dan Presley, Cathy Sawyer, Jackie Thompson, Elba Mayor James Grimes, and Kinston Mayor William Mullins Jr.